

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Ciphering apparatus in which plaintext is divided  
into blocks, and a ciphering attribute for use in  
ciphering is set to each block. Each block is ciphered  
5 in accordance with the ciphering attribute set for  
each block, the ciphered blocks are collected, and  
ciphertext is formed. For deciphering, the ciphering  
attribute for each block is referred to, each block is  
deciphered, deciphered results are collected, and the  
10 original plaintext is obtained.